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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

TRADE, CONSUMERS' GOODS DEFICIENCIES CONTINUE
IN ESTONIAN, KARELO-FINNISH SSR

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Soviet people not only want to buy goods of high quality but also want a wide variety of goods. However, the trade organizations of Tallin are not sufficiently concerned with expanding the variety of goods. For example, very few caps with earflaps and gloves are for sale. Warm linens and woollen socks are also not always available in the stores of Tallin.

Economists, commodity specialists, and planners of the Ministry of Trade Estonian SSR are still far too little concerned with this matter.(1)

Serious shortcomings also exist in the rayon industry of Estonia. Of a total of 22 rayon industrial combines in the republic, only 13 fulfilled their production plans in 1950, while none of the enterprises outside Tallin fulfilled the assortment plan.

Last year's mistakes in planning are being repeated in 1951. Forty-six rayon industrial enterprises are to operate in 1951. However, even though the technical-industrial plan for these enterprises should have been drawn up and approved before the beginning of the year, not a single technical-industrial plan existed in the first week of January.

The blame for this condition falls primarily on the rayon and city executive committees and the Ministry of Local and Shale-Chemical Industry Estonian SSR, and also on Gosplan (State Planning Committee) of the republic.

The accounts of many rayon industrial combines are also in unsatisfactory condition; books still have not been balanced for the second and third quarters of 1950. Several rayon industrial combines have set their own prices for their goods without government approval. The situation is not much better as far as quality of work is concerned.

- 1 -

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Furthermore, over a million rubles' worth of finished goods are stored in the warehouses of the rayon industrial combines. In the warehouse of the Vil'yandskiy rayon industrial combine, for example, 15,000 rubles' worth of stamps and 25,000 rubles' worth of ceramic products have been in storage for 3 years, while in Khaapsalu locks and cement deteriorated from long storage.

The reasons for the surplus of goods are the obviously unsuitable output, exceedingly high prices and, finally, the output of unplanned products without reference to the needs of the population.

In the final analysis, the success of any undertaking depends on the personnel and leadership of the rayon industrial combines. Yet, the combine in Khaapsalu changed directors 14 times within 4 years and chief accountants five times during 1950. The combine in Khar'ya had four chief accountants, the combine in Narva had three chief accountants, and the combine in Kokhtla-Yarve changed directors three times during 1950. Taking advantage of the large turnover of executive personnel, various rascals and swindlers made their way into the enterprises of the rayon industry.(2)

There are serious shortcomings in retail trade in Petrozavodsk, Karelo-Finnish SSR. For example, a new food market, the opening of which was impatiently awaited by the population, has an insufficient variety of goods for sale. Fresh fish, onions, or vegetables cannot be bought at this store. Service at the store is also poor; customers cannot even buy a loaf of bread without waiting for a long time.

Similar conditions of scarce assortment and poor service prevail in many other stores in Petrozavodsk. When asked the reasons for the lack of many consumers' goods in the stores, Kirillov, trade director of the Petrozavodsk Trade Organization, explained that since it is the beginning of the year, new shipments of goods have not yet arrived and the old stock has been depleted. However, it was difficult to purchase knitted fabrics, gloves, and mittens during most of the last 6 months of 1950.(3)

SOURCES

1. Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 10 Feb 51
2. Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 9 Feb 51
3. Petrozavodsk, Leninskoye Znanya, 11 Feb 51

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- 2 -

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